

Message Text

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SUBJECT: EUR CONSULAR CONFERENCE

REF: PARIS 10698

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY WATSON WILL DISCUSS "FREEDOM OF TRAVEL" IN HER ADDRESS TO THE AMERICAN CLUB OF PARIS. MISS WATSON WILL OUTLINE THE ADMINISTRATION'S STRONG COMMITMENT TO THE FREEDOM OF TRAVEL BETWEEN NATIONS AS EXPRESSED IN THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. THE UNITED STATES IS SENSITIVE TO THE DESIRABILITY OF DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO FACILITATE TRAVEL BOTH AS A MEANS OF STRENGTHENING THE ECONOMIES OF ALL NATIONS AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, AS A CONTRIBUTION TO THE PRESERVATION OF PEACE BETWEEN PEOPLES.

2. BIOGRAPHIC DATA FOLLOWS.

--MISS BARBARA M. WATSON OF NEW YORK, NOMINATED BY PRESIDENT CARTER, SERVES AS THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR CONSULAR AFFAIRS.

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--FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR, BUREAU OF SECURITY AND CONSULAR AFFAIRS, THE TITLE OF ASSISTANT

SECRETARY FOR CONSULAR AFFAIRS WAS SIGNED INTO LAW ON AUGUST 17, 1977.

--MISS WATSON WAS SWORN IN ON APRIL 13, 1977, AND IS RESPONSIBLE FOR VISA AND PASSPORT MATTERS AND SPECIAL CONSULAR SERVICES.

--HAVING PREVIOUSLY SERVED IN THIS POSITION FROM AUGUST 1968 THROUGH DECEMBER 1974, MISS WATSON FIRST JOINED THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE IN JULY 1966 AS SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATION. SHE WAS APPOINTED DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR OF THE BUREAU OF SECURITY AND CONSULAR AFFAIRS IN OCTOBER 1966, ACTING ADMINISTRATOR IN APRIL 1967, AND ADMINISTRATOR IN AUGUST 1968.

--A NATIVE OF NEW YORK CITY, MISS WATSON IS THE DAUGHTER OF THE LATE JUDGE AND MRS. JAMES S. WATSON. JUDGE WATSON THE FIRST NEGRO ELECTED TO A JUDGESHIP IN NEW YORK, SERVED AS MUNICIPAL COURT JUSTICE FOR TWENTY YEARS AND LATER PRESIDENT OF THE NEW YORK CITY CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION.

--MISS WATSON RECEIVED HER ACADEMIC TRAINING AT BARNARD COLLEGE WHERE SHE EARNED A BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE, AND NEW YORK LAW SCHOOL, WHERE SHE OBTAINED A BACHELOR OF LAWS DEGREE, GRADUATING THIRD IN HER CLASS. A COMMITTEE OF EMINENT JURISTS SELECTED HER AS THE "MOST OUTSTANDING LAW STUDENT IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK." MISS WATSON HOLDS AN HONORARY DOCTOR OF LAWS DEGREE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF
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MARYLAND AND AN HONORARY DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS DEGREE FROM MOUNT SAINT MARY COLLEGE.

--MISS WATSON IS THE RECIPIENT OF THE 1974 DEPARTMENT OF STATE LUTHER I. REPLOGLE AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING MANAGEMENT ABILITIES.

--IN ADDITION TO HER SERVICE WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, MISS WATSON HAS HAD BROAD EXPERIENCE IN BOTH GOVERNMENT AND NON-GOVERNMENT POSITIONS. THROUGHOUT HER CAREER SHE HAS SERVED IN CAPACITIES SUCH AS ASSISTANT CORPORATION COUNSEL IN THE LAW DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK, AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE NEW YORK CITY COMMISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS. THE LAST-NAMED COMMISSION IS THE OFFICIAL LIAISON BETWEEN THE CITY OF NEW YORK AND UNITED NATIONS PERSONNEL AND DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVES TO THE WORLD BODY. VANCE

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